

for export during the current cotton season has been higher than the domestic price.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Mechanised Coal Berth at Paradip Port

2868. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since approved the proposal for introduction of multipurpose cargo berth and mechanised coal berth at Paradip Port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The proposals for creation of a multipurpose cargo berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.94 crores and mechanised coal berth at an estimated cost of Rs. 511.25 crores at Paradip Port are being processed for investment decision by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Pension-Cum-Insurance Scheme for Farm Labourers

2869. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce Pension-cum-Insurance Scheme for the Welfare of farm labourers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A group insurance scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers is already in operation, all over the country, under which the head of an agricultural labourer's family, not owning any land, is covered for a sum assured for Rs. 2000/-. The enquire premium for this insurance cover is met from the social security fund maintained by the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Financial Assistance to Small Scale Sector

2870. SHRI HARI KISHROE SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Federation of Associations of Cottage and Small Industries for making available need based finance at affordable rates of interest to the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). While no specific proposal has been received from the Federation of Associations of Cottage and Small Industries (FACSI), Government has received various representations regarding making available need based finance at affordable rates of interest to the Small Scale Sector. RBI has reported that for term loans upto Rs. 2 lakhs, the SSI Sector enjoys concessional rate of interest. For term loans over Rs. 2 lakhs, the rate of interest has been